

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 OMB-01 /065 W

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R 020630Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3627

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T LISBON 4387

EO 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: CAPTAIN TOMAZ ROSA ON CURRENT CRISIS

REF: LISBON 4141

SUMMARY: AIR FORCE CAPTAIN JOAO PEDRO TOMAZ ROSA IS MEMBER OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM). HE HAS PROVIDED ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE VIEWS OF A GROUP OF NON-COMMUNIST OFFICERS WITHIN THA AFM. HIS ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CIRSIS IN COMMANDO REGIMENT IS THAT IT IS RESULT OF A PCP REACTION TO AN ATTEMPT BY MODERATES TO PURGE PRO-PCP OFFICERS. SITUATION OF MODERATES IS WEAKENING BUT HE BELIEVES THEY SHOULD NOT MOVE AGAINST PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES UNTIL AUTUMN WHEN CONDITIONS WILL HAVE MATURED. HE FEARS AN ATTEMPT BY SPINOLA OR OTHER RIGHTISTS WHICH WILL PULL RUG FROM UNDER AFM "MODERATES." HE BELIEVES PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES STILL PLAYING FOR TIME IN HOPE THAT GOVERNMENTAL ELECTIONS

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WILL ALLOW PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO CHAOTIC SITUATION. END SUMMARY

1. CAPTAIN ROSA VIEWS CURRENT CRISIS AS OUTGROWTH OF ATTEMPT BY ANTI-PCP OFFICERS TO REMOVE SEVERAL PRO-PCP OFFICERS FROM STRATEGIC POSITIONS. COMMUNISTS, IN REACTION ARE MAKING DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO STIMULATE AN ACT OF OVERT REBELLION, WHICH WILL GIVE THEM PRETEXT FOR A MILITARY REACTION AND REPRESSION, SIMILAR TO WHAT OCCURRED ON MARCH 11.

2. ROSA STATES HE RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS PHONE CALL AT 0400 AUGUST 1 TELLING HIM THAT COLONEL JAIME NEVES, COMMANDER OF THE COMMANDO REGIMENT, AND CAPTAIN SALGUEIRO MAIA, COMMANDER OF THE SANTAREM CAVALRY UNIT, HAD BEEN ARRESTED. HE BELIEVES CALL WAS TO PROVOKE HIM INTO PRECIPITATE ACTION. ROSA DOES NOT FAVOR MOVE AGAINST PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES AT PRESENT, STILL BELIEVING THAT CONFLUENCE OF ECONOMIC DECLINE AND POLITICAL BANKRUPTCY OF GONCALVES' NEXT GOVERNMENT WILL BE APPARENT TO ALL IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER AND THAT GONCALVES WILL BE PUSH-OVER THEN.

3. ROSA ADMITS CONCERN AT MOVE AGAINST NEVES, WHOM HE ALLEGES HAS EVOLVED TOWARD VIEWS SHARED BY MELO ANTUNES AND OTHERS OF ROSA'S GROUP. ROSA WAS UNCERTAIN AT PRESENT WHETHER NEVES HAD BEEN RESTORED TO COMMAND OF COMMANDO REGIMENT. HE SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT CAPTAIN VASCO LOURENCO WAS TO GIVE GENERAL OTELO CARVALHO A WARNING THIS MORNING THAT REMOVAL OF NEVES FROM HIS COMMAND POSITION WOULD BRING A BREAK WITH LOURENCO AND OTHERS IN THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) WHO SHARED HIS VIEWS. IF NEVES IS RESTORED TO HIS COMMAND IT WOULD BE AS RESULT OF THIS CONFRONTATION.

4. IN ADDITION TO NEVES, ROSA IS CONCERNED ABOUT REPLACEMENT OF A SUBMARINE COMMANDER WHO ALSO PART OF SAME GROUP AS ROSA. ROSA SAID THAT ARREST OF CAPTAIN SALGUEIRO MAIA OR ANY OF KEY AIR FORCE OFFICERS WOULD BE CAUSE FOR PROMPT RETALIATORY ACTION, BUT THAT HIS GROUP NOT DISPOSED TO GO TO LAST DITCH ON BEHALF OF COLONEL NEVES, WHO IS A CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE.

5. ROSA AND HIS GROUP ARE MOST CONCERNED THAT SPINOLA AND ELP MAY MAKE AN OVERT MOVE AGAINST GOP. SUCH A MOVE INEVITABLY
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WOULD BE A DISASTROUS FAILURE AND WOULD EFFECTIVELY PRE-EMPT A LATER MOVE BY ROSA'S AFM FRIENDS. ROSA'S GROUP WOULD BE IN FRONT LINE OF RESISTANCE AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT BY SPINOLA OR ELP.

6. ROSA REITERATED HIS BELIEF THAT PCP WOULD BE DELIGHTED WITH ANY EVIDENCE OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE. HE SAID THIS WOULD ALLOW PCP TO RAISE MASS RESENTMENT AGAINST U.S. AND TO BRANK PPD (WHICH IS STRONG IN ISLANDS) AS PARTY OF

TREASON.

7. ANGOLA: ROSA STATED THAT ROVING AMBASSADOR VICTOR ALVES RETURNED TO LISBON JULY 31 FROM OAU MEETING IN KAMPALA. ALVES TOLD HIM THAT UNITA AND FNLA HAD AGREED TO JOIN FORCES AGAINST THE MPLA, ISOLATING IT IN LUANDA WHILE THEY CONSOLIDATE THEIR CONTROL OF REST OF ANGOLA. CAPTAIN ROSA SAID ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO HAD DEPARTED FOR LUANDA JULY 31 AND THAT THERE MAY BE PRESSURE GENERATED TO KEEP HIM THERE, OUT OF EVENTS IN LISBON. ROSA ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE PCP HOPES TO HAVE PORTUGUESE MARINES AND AIR FORCE HELICOPTER UNITS SENT TO ANGOLA AS THIS WOULD REMOVE TWO KEY ELEMENTS FROM CONTINENTAL PORTUGAL. HE AGREED THAT UN INTERVENTION, EXCEPT AS A LAST MINUTE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT, WOULD PRIMARILY BENEFIT THE MPLA.

8. SILVER LINING ON CLOUDY OUTLOOK: ROSA SAID THERE IS A MOVE UNDERWAY TO PURGE SOME PRO-COMMUNIST ARMED FORCES J-5 (PROPAGANDA AND DYNAMIZATION) OFFICERS BY UNITS TO WHICH THEY ARE ATTACHED. HE SPECULATED THAT PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES IS ASTUTELY PLAYING FOR TIME, KNOWING THAT PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES WILL FLOUNDER, AND AWAITING ALL IMPORTANT PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS WHICH WILL BE CALLED AFTER THE CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLETES ITS WORK. PRESIDENT REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AFM PROGRAM BECAUSE IT INCLUDES PROVISION FOR ELECTIONS.
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